



Dear House member of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Feb. 25, 2012

We are writing in response to HB 4265 and 4266, the "Grass to Gas" bill. We would like to make the following comments:

-The passage of this Bill would allow yard waste to return to the landfill therefore causing the loss of our business as a compost facility on our farm. We would lose not only our business but several employees including ourselves would be put out of work. We have been running this business successfully for 17 years.

-The passage of this Bill causes us great concern as to the availability of compost to use in organic farming. We farm without the use of chemicals and sell compost to many organic farms. The use of compost instead of chemical fertilizers is on the rise and demand for organically raised food is increasing. Land filling yard waste eliminates most of the organic waste stream that is currently recycled into compost. It is not the best use of yard wastes to have it land filled.

-Michigan soils erode and become depleted of organic material. Compost is the organic component of soil that makes for good topsoil. More and more homeowners want to have good soil so as to have a backyard garden or in the least a good lawn. Without compost being available in our state we will have to depend on peat being mined or the importing of compost from other states.

This Bill has serious consequences for our business and to farming in Michigan. Please consider small businesses like our farm and our employees in making your decision.

Jim and Sandra Tuthill

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